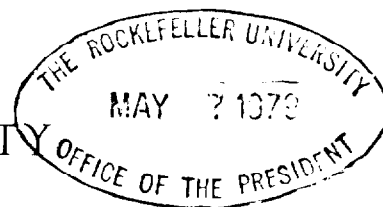


*Tatum -
Smure Vi*

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

May 3, 1979



Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President
The Rockefeller University

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

This is just a note to tell you again how much I appreciated your visit yesterday. It was extremely kind of you to take the time from your busy schedule to come over here and I hope that it gives you satisfaction to know that you gave me much pleasure and a great deal of information. My fondest hope is that I may have been able to be of some small help to you. As you know, my association with Rockefeller is of over forty years' standing and consequently I have a great interest in and deep affection for the institution. I was greatly encouraged by our talk and had the feeling that we will prosper under your leadership. While I recognize that, as you so aptly put it, it is never possible to re-create the past, nor should one try, I had the feeling that you would select those elements of the past which would be helpful in the future. I might add that your parting words were deeply appreciated.

Our conversation was so interesting that I quite forgot to mention that Phoebe and I shared a friendship with someone very close to you. We had been very intimate friends of Vi and Ed Tatum. We suffered with them through those last dismal years although I prefer to remember the many happy times we had together and the stimulating scientific discussions that I often had with Ed in the lab. It was a great loss to us and to Rockefeller when he died. Emphysema is truly a terrible disease.

Your kind invitation for me to join in the luncheons, should they materialize, was heartwarming. Nothing would please me better, but as I mentioned, the spirit may be willing but I am not sure that the body is up to it. I hope, however, that we may keep this in mind and make the final decision if and when the time should come.

Again many thanks for your visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "William H. Stein".

William H. Stein

WHS/in